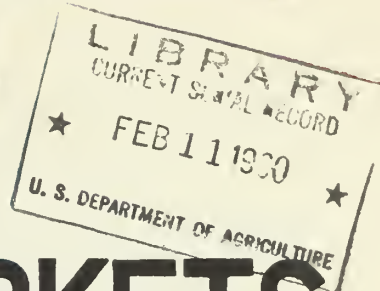


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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



FOR RELEASE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1960

VOLUME 80

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FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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U.S. TOBACCO EXPORTS DOWN
SLIGHTLY IN 1959

U.S. exports of unmanufactured tobacco in calendar year 1959, at 465.6 million pounds (export weight), were 3.5 percent below those of 1958. The value of 1959 exports, at \$346.2 million, was only 2.3 percent below the 1958 value, and 3.6 percent below the record 1957 value of \$359.1 million.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco in 1959 totaled 374.0 million pounds--down 6.2 percent from the 398.7 million exported in 1958. Exports of Kentucky-Tennessee fire-cured, Green River, and cigar wrapper also dropped. Burley exports, at 31.9 million pounds in 1959, were 10.8 percent above a year earlier. There were also significant gains in exports of Maryland leaf, cigar binder, and One Sucker. Cigar filler exports also rose last year. Virginia fire-cured trade was about the same as in 1958.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: U.S. exports, by types and export weight
December and January-December 1958 and 1959, with percent change

Type	December			January-December		
			Percent			Percent
	1958	1959	change	1958	1959	change
	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000	
	pounds	pounds	Percent	pounds	pounds	Percent
Flue-cured.....	43,048	45,000	+4.5	398,742	373,963	-6.2
Burley.....	1,998	5,702	+185.4	28,782	31,881	+10.8
Dk.-fired Ky.-Tenn.....	1,015	1,834	+80.7	19,702	17,840	-9.5
Va. fire-cured 1/.....	313	896	+186.3	4,617	4,638	+.5
Maryland.....	835	2,090	+150.3	11,853	14,411	+21.6
Green River.....	44	--	--	1,154	788	-31.7
One Sucker.....	182	344	+89.0	884	2,398	+171.3
Black Fat, etc.....	470	540	+14.9	4,945	4,895	-1.0
Cigar wrapper.....	168	158	-6.0	4,736	3,979	-16.0
Cigar binder.....	367	280	-23.7	1,984	3,228	+62.7
Cigar filler.....	113	--	--	571	989	+73.2
Other.....	336	674	+100.6	4,320	6,605	+52.9
Total.....	48,889	57,518	+17.7	482,290	465,615	-3.5
	Million	Million		Million	Million	
	dollars	dollars	Percent	dollars	dollars	Percent
Declared value.....	36.6	43.0	+17.5	354.4	346.2	-2.3

1/ Includes sun-cured.

Bureau of the Census.

(Continued)

U.S. exports of tobacco products in 1959 were valued at \$94.3 million--up 10.8 percent from 1958. Cigarette exports for 1959 amounted to 19.6 billion pieces, an 8.3-percent increase from 1958.

Exports of cigars and cheroots amounted to 23.9 million pieces, compared with 9.3 million in 1958. Exports of smoking tobacco in bulk rose 22 percent, while chewing and snuff and smoking tobacco in packages dropped.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: U.S. exports, December and January-December 1958 and 1959, with percentage change

Products and value	December		Percent change	January-December		Percent change
	1958	1959		1958	1959	
Cigars and cheroots (1,000 pieces).....	874	3,074	+251.7	9,340	23,851	+155.4
Cigarettes (million pieces).....	1,297	1,663	+28.2	18,068	19,576	+8.3
Chewing and snuff (1,000 pounds).....	216	75	-65.3	1,292	1,046	-19.0
Smoking tobacco in pkgs. (1,000 pounds).....	40	42	+5.0	677	662	-2.2
Smoking tobacco in bulk (1,000 pounds).....	540	488	-9.6	6,934	8,467	+22.1
Total declared value (million dollars).....	6.4	7.9	+23.4	85.1	94.3	+10.8

Bureau of the Census.

AUSTRALIAN TOBACCO CROP LARGER

Australian tobacco growers expect to harvest about 18.7 million pounds of tobacco (almost all flue-cured) in 1960. A crop this size would be one-third larger than the 1959 harvest of 13.9 million pounds.

If crop expectations materialize, it is likely that the mixing requirement (for securing duty reduction) will be increased. For the current fiscal year (1959-60) manufacturers must use at least 15.5 percent domestic leaf in cigarettes, and 16.5 percent in smoking mixtures to qualify for the reduction of 1s. 6d. per pound on imported tobacco to be blended with domestic. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1960, the percentages are 28.5 percent for cigarettes and 24.5 percent for smoking tobacco.

Any further increases in these percentages probably would affect the market for U.S. leaf in Australia. U.S. leaf has to compete not only with Australian-grown tobacco, but also with Rhodesian leaf imported under manufacturers' agreements at a concessional tariff rate.

FINNISH USINGS OF U.S. TOBACCO CONTINUE TO GAIN

Usings of U.S. tobacco by Finnish manufacturers totaled 4.9 million pounds during January-October 1959--the same as for the full calendar year 1958. This indicates that 12-month usings in 1959 were well above those the previous year. The U.S. share in total tobacco usings for January-October 1959 was 49 percent, compared with 46.4 percent for calendar 1958.

The gain in use of U.S. tobacco in 1959 reflects a substantial increase in cigarette output. It also indicates that the growing demand for domestic-type filter-tipped cigarettes (which contain a minimum of 70 percent flue-cured and Burley leaf) augurs well for U.S. tobacco in Finland, even though demand for other types of cigarettes containing U.S. leaf is declining.

MEXICAN WINTER VEGETABLE SHIPMENTS, JANUARY 1-16

The following winter vegetables from the West Coast of Mexico crossed the border at Nogales, Arizona, during the period January 1-16, 1960 (in thousands of pounds): tomatoes, 16,916; peppers, 2,777; cucumbers, 815; snap beans, 340; peas, 320; eggplant, 186; sweet corn, 114; and squash, 101.

MEXICAN STRAWBERRY CROP LARGE

Mexican strawberry production for 1960 is preliminarily estimated at 28.2 million pounds, compared with 22 million in 1959. About 18 million pounds will probably be frozen; most of the frozen berries are exported to the United States and Canada.

A Mexican export company is being formed to ship fresh berries by air freight to Laredo. From there they will go by refrigerated truck to U. S. markets.

Acreage, production, and imports by the United States and Canada for 1957-59 and the preliminary estimate of 1960 acreage and production are as follows:

Year	Acres	Production	U.S. imports	Canadian imports
			<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>
1957.....	8,200	27.0	13.7	0.7
1958.....	7,400	21.8	14.4	1.1
1959.....	6,900	22.0		
1960.....	7,600	28.2		

1959 GREEK RAISIN PACK ESTIMATE LOWERED

The 1959 Greek raisin pack estimate has been lowered to 69,000 short tons, down 3,000 tons from an earlier forecast. The 1959 pack is the same size as 1957's but 47 percent larger than the 47,000 1958 crop. Greek trade circles report the quality of this year's crop, in general, to be above that in 1958.

About 60 percent of this year's pack is number 0, 1, and 2 Grades and 40 percent of number 4 Grades and lower, compared with a 50-50 ratio in 1958.

The Greek trade estimated earlier that 1959-60 raisin exports would reach about 58,400 tons. However, the export market has been weak, and it was only through special agreements and barter transactions--especially with the U.S.S.R. and other Soviet Bloc countries--that shipments totaled about 28,000 tons by the end of December.

RAISINS: Greece, exports by country of destination, marketing year ending August 31, 1959, and September-November 1958 and 1959

Country of destination	Year ending August 31, 1959	September-November	
		1958	1959
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
United States.....	346	---	---
Western Europe			
Austria.....	2,357	1,462	971
France.....	3,313	1,173	426
Germany, West.....	15,250	8,949	10,994
United Kingdom.....	1,767	833	234
Other.....	3,199	1,960	475
Total.....	25,886	14,377	13,100
Other Europe			
Germany, East.....	1,433	1,134	---
U.S.S.R.....	7,219	942	5,645
Other.....	4,377	1,554	3,064
Total.....	13,029	3,630	8,709
Total Europe.....	38,915	18,007	21,809
Other countries			
Japan.....	2,940	1,075	1,429
Other.....	1,540	635	149
Total.....	4,480	1,710	1,578
Grand total.....	43,741	19,717	23,387

The Greek Government, in an effort to keep sultana prices at reasonable levels and help growers dispose of their crop, bought about 22,000 short tons from the 1959 pack. The first 11,000 tons were collected at the basic price of 10.6 cents per pound for number 4 Grade with no quantitative or other limitations. The second 11,000 tons were collected at a basic price of 9.8 cents per pound for the number 4 Grade with a limit of one-half ton per grower.

The entire 22,000 tons collected are in the hands of KSOS, from which 5,500 tons were sold to the U.S.S.R. at 11.8 cents per pound for unbleached number 4 Grade, c.i.f. Odessa. Another sale of 6,600 tons to the U.S.S.R. was reported to have been made by a private firm.

The Greek trade expects the raisin market to pick up this month. Prices are also expected to improve from December levels, reported as follows, c.i.f. United Kingdom:

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Dollars per short ton</u>
No. 0	283
1	272
2	245
4	236
4 (Unbleached)	231

These prices are reported to be about 13 to 17 percent under the prices in mid-September 1959. Grower prices are reported close to 6.8 cents per pound. With stocks estimated at about 11,000 tons, growers are reported to be hesitant about selling at this price, hoping that the government will pay more.

CUBA EXTENDS TRADE AGREEMENTS

Existing commercial agreements between Cuba and Switzerland, Israel, and Denmark have been extended without change until December 31, 1960. The agreements provide reciprocal most-favored-nation treatment with respect to tariffs and consular fees.

A modus vivendi with Japan, providing the same most-favored-nation treatment (textiles excepted) was extended without change until June 30, 1960.

RHODESIAS-NYASALAND TRADE BALANCE IMPROVES GREATLY IN 1959

The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland had a favorable visible trade balance of \$115 million for the first 10 months of 1959, compared with a deficit of \$25.2 million in the corresponding period of 1958.

The improvement was partly because of a \$13-million increase in exports of unmanufactured tobacco from a record crop. Copper exports, however, accounted for most of the increase.

LOWER MINIMUM CANNING FRUIT PRICES
SET FOR AUSTRALIAN GROWERS

Minimum prices to be paid Australian canning fruit growers in 1960 will be substantially lower than in 1959. Minimum prices are set each year by the Australian Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee and must be paid by processors in order to qualify for the domestic and export sugar rebate.

The reduction this year appears to reflect canners' expectations of stiff competition in the U.K. market because of increased canned fruit production in major exporting countries. Minimum prices for first-quality canning fruit for the 1959 and 1960 processing seasons, delivered either to the growers' railroad siding or to the cannery door are:

Kind of fruit	1959	1960
	Dollars per short ton	Dollars per short ton
Apricots.....	70	60
Peaches, cling, clear centers.....	92	80
Peaches, cling, other.....	88	76
Peaches, free stone.....	60	52
Pears, Bartlett.....	76	76
Pears, Packham's Triumph.....	60	60
Plums.....	40	40
Quinces.....	40	40

Prices for canning pears, one of Australia's strongest lines in the United Kingdom in recent years, were not lowered from last year's level. Processors apparently expect to dispose of the 1960 pack without much difficulty, as trade reports indicate U. K. carryover stocks are low despite large imports in 1959.

Large quantities of apricots and peaches are expected to be dried again this year, as canners will reportedly limit fresh fruit intake and concentrate on top-quality supplies. The size of the 1960 canned fruit packs will probably be governed by marketing opportunities rather than the availability of fresh fruit. It is therefore unlikely that processors will pay more than the minimum price for fresh fruit. This will be particularly true of private canners, cooperative canneries may pay more if justified by the market.

AUSTRALIAN MEAT SHIPMENTS
TO U.S. IN JANUARY

The ship Pioneer Glen left Australia January 13 with 242,000 pounds of frozen beef destined for New York. January 5 was previously reported as its tentative sailing date.

**WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES: Wholesale prices at specified markets,
with comparisons
(U. S. cents per pound)**

Country, market, and description	Butter				Cheese			
	1959	Quotations			1959	Quotations		
		Cur-	Month	Year		Cur-	Month	Year
		rent:	earlier:	earlier:		rent:	earlier:	earlier:
United Kingdom (London)								
New Zealand, finest	Dec.31	51.2	51.2	36.2				
Australian choicest	Dec.31	51.1	51.1	36.1				
New Zealand, finest white					Dec.31	37.6	37.6	36.4
Australian choicest white					Dec.31	-	37.1	36.4
Australia (Sydney)								
Choicest butter	Dec.31	48.5	48.5	48.5				
Choicest cheddar					Dec.31	29.2	29.2	29.2
Irish Republic (Dublin)								
Creamery butter	Dec.31	54.8	54.8	54.8				
Cheese					Dec.31	30.8	30.8	30.8
Denmark (Copenhagen)	Dec.17	52.7	52.6	39.6				
France (Paris)								
Charentes creamery	1/ Jan.4	84.4	82.4	74.2				
Germany (Kempten)								
Markenbutter	Dec.30	65.8	74.0	66.5				
United States								
92-score creamery (N.Y.)	Dec.28	60.2	65.7	59.2				
Cheddar (Wisconsin)					Dec.28	36.2	35.7	32.8
Netherlands (Leeuwarden)								
Creamery butter	Dec.28	65.5	73.7	42.2				
Full cream Gouda					Dec.18	24.6	31.6	27.2
Edam, 40 percent					Dec.18	21.9	29.0	25.2
Belgium (Hasselt)	Dec.31	79.6	79.3	81.9				
Canada (Montreal)								
1st grade creamery	Dec.24	67.4	66.5	66.9				
Ontario white					Dec.24	33.7	39.2	35.3

1/ 1960.

Source: Intelligence Bulletin, the Commonwealth Economic Committee; and the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

NEW MEAT TRANSPORT SHIP TAKING
NEW ZEALAND-U. S. RUN

The Crusader Shipping Company recently announced the ship Port Montreal will begin a regular run in April for meat shipments from New Zealand to the United States. Chilled beef shipments to the United States will therefore not be terminated as previously indicated when the company withdrew the ship Saracen from this run (see Foreign Crops and Markets, January 11).

U.K. IMPORTS OF LARD
UP 45 PERCENT IN 1959

U.K. imports of lard in the first 11 months of 1959 were 320 million pounds, up 45 percent from a year earlier. Demand for lard in the United Kingdom has been stimulated by lower lard prices and increased use in margarine.

Imports from the United States were up 95 percent during January-November 1959 and accounted for 72 percent of the United Kingdom's total lard imports, compared with 53 percent a year earlier. Imports from France, Canada, and Sweden also rose, while those from other markets declined. Increased supplies and lower prices helped boost the U.S. share of the market; also, development of bulk handling in tankers reduced delivered costs.

LARD: United Kingdom imports, by country of origin and country percentage of total, January-November, 1958 and 1959

Origin	January-November 1958		January-November 1959	
	Quantity	Percentage of total	Quantity	Percentage of total
	1,000 pounds	Percent	1,000 pounds	Percent
United States.....	118,157	53.5	229,982	71.9
France.....	32,132	14.5	37,055	11.6
Belgium.....	22,303	10.1	11,000	3.4
Denmark.....	20,489	9.3	16,985	5.3
Netherlands.....	23,573	10.7	12,038	3.8
Canada.....	226	0.1	9,517	3.0
Sweden.....	2,633	1.2	3,207	1.0
Others.....	1,387	0.6	142	--
Total.....	220,900	100.0	319,926	100.0

U.S. Packers Provision Agents' Committee in London.

COLOMBIAN SHEEP-BUYING TEAM TO VISIT U. S.

As a part of a program to develop Colombia's sheep and wool industry, importation of 900 head of U. S. breeding sheep has been approved by the Minister of Agriculture.

A two-member purchasing team from Colombia will spend 2 to 3 weeks in the United States this spring buying Romney Marsh, Rambouillet Type C, Corriedale, Suffolk, and Hampshire breeds. The team will be accompanied by a representative from a U. S. sheep breeding association who will be a coordinator for the project.

This will be Colombia's first livestock purchasing mission since the import ban on breeding animals was removed last year.

RECORD BUTTER PRICES INCREASE VALUE OF DANISH MILK IN 1959

A preliminary review by the Danish Government indicates that milk production was valued at \$391.5 million in 1959, compared with \$319 million in 1958. This increase of 23 percent was primarily due to record butter prices during the last half of 1959. The value of butter exports increased about 50 percent to \$113.5 million in 1959; however, the quantity exported was up only 2 percent to 258.7 million pounds.

Cheese exports set a record of 169.7 million pounds valued at \$45.5 million, compared with 159.8 million pounds valued at \$39.4 million during 1958.

Domestic use of butter was down about 20 percent to 107.8 million pounds, but value was up 20 percent. There was no cold-storage butter sold on the domestic market in 1959. Cheese consumption totaled 79.3 million pounds in 1959, compared with 78.2 million in 1958.

VENEZUELA'S HOPS IMPORTS CONTINUE TO RISE

Venezuela's hops imports have been rising along with its beer production.

Venezuelan beer output increased from 492,600 barrels in 1948 to an estimated 1,789,600 barrels in 1959. The forecast for 1960 is 2,041,900 barrels. Hops imports, which totaled 927,600 pounds in 1955, increased to an estimated 1,181,100 pounds in 1959, with 1,340,400 forecast for 1960.

The U. S. share of these imports has also been rising in recent years. It was 40 percent in 1955 and rose to 61 percent in 1958. The U. S. share for 1959 has not yet been reported.

West Germany is Venezuela's second most important source of hops, after the United States. West Germany's share of the total was 27 percent in 1956, 19 percent in 1957, and 28 percent in 1958. Other important suppliers are Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Venezuela itself grows no hops.

BURMA AND PAKISTAN SIGN RICE AGREEMENT

Under a new agreement signed January 9, Pakistan will purchase approximately 200,000 long tons (4,480,000 cwt.) of Burmese rice each year for 3 years. Burma will supply two kinds of rice--full boiled and Ngasein--to meet the needs of East Pakistan. Ngasein is a medium-grain type of rice resembling the U. S. variety Calrose.

The pact extends the existing 3-year agreement for 100,000 tons (2,240,000 cwt.) a year, which expires late this month.

U.S. GRASS AND LEGUME SEED EXPORTS INCREASED SHARPLY IN DECEMBER.

U.S. exports of grass and legume seeds in December amounted to 7,903,000 pounds, compared with 4,912,000 pounds in December 1958. Alfalfa, "other" clovers, bentgrass, timothy, and "other" grasses showed the largest increases.

Italy, Canada, France, and the United Kingdom received the largest shipments in December.

GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS: U.S. exports, December 1959, with comparisons

Kind of seed	December		July 1-Dec. 31	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Alfalfa, certified.....	497	898	2,511	2,486
Alfalfa, uncertified.....	297	667	1,028	2,247
Alfalfa, total.....	794	1,565	3,539	4,733
Alsike.....	153	33	317	262
Ladino.....	246	192	892	836
Clover, other.....	979	1,288	1,799	2,271
Bentgrass.....	533	921	1,826	2,133
Fescue.....	522	774	2,851	2,603
Kentucky bluegrass.....	296	42	1,130	149
Orchard.....	195	34	260	67
Redtop.....	43	20	242	244
Timothy.....	246	615	1,563	1,199
Grasses, other.....	905	2,419	3,459	6,982
Total.....	4,912	7,903	17,878	21,479

JAPAN INCREASES IMPORTS OF
CANADIAN HARD WHEAT

Japan's imports of Canadian hard wheat in 1958-59 (October-September) increased 2.5 million bushels from 1957-58, while purchases of hard wheat from the United States declined 179,000 bushels. Total hard wheat imports increased 2.3 million bushels. This change in Japan's wheat import pattern is due to a considerable shift from soft wheat to hard in milling.

WHEAT: Japan, import commitments, 1957-58 and 1958-59,
by countries of origin

Country of origin	1957-58				1958-59			
	Soft	Semi- hard	Hard	Total	Soft	Semi- hard	Hard	Total
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
United States.....	30,038	8,580	1,895	40,513	23,769	5,857	1,716	31,342
Canada.....	--	--	31,423	31,423	--	--	33,921	33,921
Australia.....	5,014	--	--	5,014	6,393	2,219	--	8,612
U.S.S.R.	--	--	--	--	--	570	--	570
Italy.....	--	--	--	--	18	--	--	18
Total.....	35,052	8,580	33,318	76,950	30,180	8,646	35,637	74,463

While Japan's imports of soft wheat from the United States declined about 6.3 million bushels, its imports of such wheat from Australia increased 1.4 million bushels. The reduction in purchases of U.S. soft wheat was due not only to stepped up purchases from Australia under the 3-year Japanese-Australian wheat agreement signed in July 1957 but also to an increase in Japan's soft wheat production from 47.1 million bushels in 1958 to 52.0 million in 1959. Total soft wheat imports declined 4.9 million bushels.

During the same two years, Japan's total imports of semi-hard wheat remained at about the same level, but in 1958-59 Japan bought 2.2 million bushels from Australia and 570,000 from the U.S.S.R.; in 1957-58, it took no semi-hard wheat from these countries. Imports from the United States declined 2.7 million bushels in 1958-59.

For the next 10 years, it is likely that per capita consumption of wheat as food will remain at about the present level, but that total consumption will continue to increase with population. For use as feed, total consumption will increase proportionately more. Domestic wheat production may increase slightly in 1960, but thereafter it is likely to decline somewhat. As a net result, wheat import requirements will continue to be relatively high, and the shift from soft to hard wheat will also continue.

Purchases of Russian wheat are unlikely to increase much, owing to high transport costs. Purchases from Canada will, at least in the near future, continue to increase unless U. S. hard wheat becomes more competitive with that obtainable from Canada.

CANADA SURVEYS GRAIN YIELDS ON SUMMERFALLOWED LAND

Canada's wheat grown on summerfallowed land in 1959 averaged 19.4 bushels per acre, compared with 11.8 bushels per acre on stubble lands, according to a survey made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The survey shows that 85 percent of wheat production in the Prairie Provinces and more than 80 percent of Canada's total crop was grown on summerfallow.

Substantial amounts of barley and oats were also grown on summerfallow, though percentages were considerably less than for wheat. About 54 percent of Canada's barley production was grown on summerfallow, with yields averaging 33.2 bushels per acre in the Prairie Provinces, compared with 21.9 bushels per acre for barley on stubble.

Yields of oats on summerfallowed land in the Prairie Provinces averaged 42 bushels per acre--well above the reported 29.1 bushels on stubble. However, since a much smaller proportion of Canada's oats is grown in the Prairie Provinces than is the case for wheat and barley, this affected total yields less. The yield of 42 bushels per acre, though relatively high, was well below Ontario's average of 50.4 bushels per acre. Ontario produces approximately one-fourth of the country's total oats production.

RHODESIAN DROUGHT HURTS AGRICULTURE

Drought in Southern Rhodesia has affected tobacco and reduced corn production. The next few weeks will be critical for both commodities. More flue-cured tobacco was dry-planted in October and November, and greater use is being made of overhead irrigation.

The Grain Marketing Board has stopped corn exports, and there is possibility of cattle in drought-stricken Matabeleland being shipped to areas where there is more grass.

U. S. RICE EXPORTS OFF SLIGHTLY IN DECEMBER

U. S. rice exports in December, at 968,000 cwt. (100 pounds) in terms of milled rice, declined moderately from the 1,133,000 bags shipped in November, but were sharply above December 1958 exports. Shipments increased to all areas except the Western Hemisphere.

Over a third of December exports went to Indonesia. The next largest quantities were sent to Cuba, West Germany, the Netherlands, Ghana, the United Kingdom, and the Union of South Africa.

Rice exports in the first 5 months (August-December) of the current marketing year amounted to 7,095,000 cwt., 1,800,000 cwt. more than in the same months of 1958. Exports to Asia, Africa, and Europe increased significantly; those to the Western Hemisphere declined 13 percent.

RICE: United States exports, in terms of milled, to specified countries,
December 1959, with comparisons 1/

Country of destination	August- July 1958-59	August-December 1958 : 1959 2/		December 1958 : 1959 2/	
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Western Hemisphere:					
Canada	267	170	109	18	28
Bahamas	30	8	31	3	11
British Honduras	25	1	12	0	0
Costa Rica	82	0	2/	0	0
Cuba	4,113	1,950	1,569	350	155
Netherlands Antilles	63	25	29	6	4
Nicaragua	56	44	0	0	0
Argentina	0	0	63	0	0
Chile	23	2/	45	2/	3
Venezuela	67	2	17	2/	2/
Other countries	109	137	76	10	2
Total	4,835	2,237	1,951	387	203
Europe:					
Belgium-Luxembourg	315	98	230	21	24
West Germany	1,116	280	361	9	132
Greece	48	25	9	4	0
Netherlands	350	75	272	20	48
Sweden	34	22	36	4	3
Switzerland	26	18	14	3	0
United Kingdom	444	137	183	24	36
Other countries	40	16	28	3	11
Total	2,373	671	1,133	88	254
Asia:					
Ceylon	1,078	550	686	0	0
Indonesia	116	89	1,988	0	357
Iraq	24	2	232	0	29
Pakistan	1,169	0	94	0	0
Philippines	1,140	1,140	2/	0	0
Saudi Arabia	114	38	26	8	3
Other Arabian States	189	72	67	16	25
Other countries	412	24	13	22	1
Total	4,242	1,915	3,106	46	415
Africa:					
Egypt	489	0	447	0	0
French West Africa	526	1	44	0	0
Ghana	32	12	66	6	48
Liberia	377	133	191	18	3
Union of South Africa	50	2	101	2/	34
Other countries	93	4/ 55	16	8	3
Total	1,567	203	865	32	88
Total Oceania	50	25	17	2	6
Destination not specified	22	9	7	1	2
Sub-total	13,089	5,060	7,079	556	968
Section 416 donations	651	235	16	0	0
World total	13,740	5,295	7,095	556	968

1/ Includes brown, broken, screenings, and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 cwt. 4/ 46,000 cwt. to French Somaliland.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

BELGIAN SUBSIDY DESIGNED TO OFFSET FEED GRAIN PRICE RISE

A recent Belgian decree provides for subsidy payments to farmers to offset increases in feed grain prices. Prices have risen as a result of increases in the import license taxes on feed grains.

The subsidy will be based on 250 Belgian francs per unit of 300 kilograms of grain (36.4 U. S. cents per bushel for barley, 42.4 cents for rye, corn, and grain sorghums, and 24.2 cents for oats). Farmers most affected by the 1959 drought will be the first beneficiaries.

Import license taxes on grain sorghums were increased 82 percent in March 1959. In August 1958, the taxes on rye, barley, oats, corn, barley groats, and corn and other grain meals were doubled and those on grain sorghums raised 17 percent.

The purpose was to raise the producer prices correspondingly and thereby encourage production of domestic feed grains at the expense of wheat and thus reduce the wheat surplus. However, this also increased the cost to farmers who have to purchase feed grains.

ARGENTINE GRAIN EXPORTS LARGER IN JULY-NOVEMBER 1959

Argentine grain exports during July-November 1959 were 2.4 million metric tons, compared with 2.1 million tons a year earlier.

This increase of approximately 14 percent was due mainly to larger shipments of corn. However, larger exports of barley and sorghums accounted for a small part of the increase. Exports of wheat, rye, and oats were significantly below those in July-November 1958.

Wheat exports during July-November 1959 were approximately 16 percent below the 945,000 tons exported during the same months of 1958. The principal buyers of Argentine wheat--Brazil, West Germany, and the United Kingdom--imported about 196,000 tons less than their total takings of 788,000 tons a year earlier.

Corn exports during July-November 1959 were 1.4 million tons, approximately 49 percent higher than exports during the 5-month period in 1958. Belgium-Luxembourg, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Japan continued to be the principal markets. There was an increase of 447,000 tons in exports to these countries.

Western Europe continued to be the principal buyer of Argentine barley, oats, and rye. Approximately 73 percent of the sorghums exports in July-November 1959 went to Belgium-Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Comparable figures for sorghums exports during July-November 1958 were not reported.

GRAIN: Argentine exports, July-November 1958 and July-November 1959

Country of destination	Wheat	Rye	Corn	Oats	Barley	Sorghums 1/	Total
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
July-November 1958:							
United States	—	—	3,904	—	—	—	3,904
Brazil	509,426	—	—	5,984	2,000	—	517,410
Paraguay	26,300	—	—	—	—	—	26,300
Peru	37,824	—	—	—	—	—	37,824
Austria	10,713	—	6,470	—	—	—	17,183
Belgium-Luxembourg:	15,203	4,970	101,795	6,092	1,000	—	129,060
Czechoslovakia ...:	—	—	539	1,500	—	—	2,039
Denmark	3,800	1,850	4,200	6,236	—	—	16,086
France	9,634	—	—	—	—	—	9,634
West Germany	111,902	7,518	66,463	42,841	42,837	—	271,561
Italy	—	5,212	249,474	4,000	492	—	259,178
Netherlands	40,434	11,835	256,687	23,018	7,817	—	339,791
Norway	4,050	—	2,028	—	—	—	6,078
Poland	—	—	550	—	—	—	550
Rumania	—	6,931	3,200	1,150	—	—	11,281
Sweden	800	6,205	1,800	1,690	—	—	10,495
Switzerland	—	—	9,516	420	—	—	9,936
United Kingdom ...:	167,065	1,330	134,520	10,513	—	—	313,428
Japan	—	—	100,152	—	—	—	100,152
North Africa	—	—	1,605	—	—	—	1,605
South Africa	8,168	—	—	—	—	—	8,168
Total	945,319	45,851	942,903	103,444	54,146	1/	2,091,663
July-November 1959:							
United States	—	—	1,657	—	—	—	1,657
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	75	75
Brazil	449,292	—	—	1,754	6,143	—	457,189
Chile	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	50,000
Paraguay	36,248	—	—	—	—	—	36,248
Peru	37,825	—	2,210	—	—	—	40,035
Uruguay	10,870	500	840	2,001	7,985	—	22,196
Austria	—	6,629	2,310	—	—	—	8,939
Belgium-Luxembourg:	1,850	672	166,062	1,000	—	15,720	185,304
Denmark	—	200	1,450	1,000	—	2,715	5,365
France	14,760	—	2,890	—	—	—	17,650
West Germany	96,485	14,610	94,569	2,640	61,715	4,800	274,819
Italy	17,392	1,098	544,383	7,840	8,638	2,268	581,619
Netherlands	20,010	2,158	279,589	—	2,358	32,874	336,989
Sweden	—	1,200	3,650	—	—	220	5,070
Switzerland	1,000	—	12,596	—	—	—	13,596
United Kingdom ...:	46,791	800	143,171	—	—	7,770	198,532
Japan	—	—	157,000	—	—	—	157,000
Lebanon	8,820	—	—	—	1,350	—	10,170
Total	791,343	27,867	1,412,377	16,235	88,189	66,442	2,402,453

1/Not available prior to September 1959.

Source: El Cerealista.

THAILAND REVISES RICE EXPORT PREMIUMS AGAIN

Thailand again revised its rice export premiums (export tax) on December 30, 1959. All revisions were downward from the previous schedule, except for glutinous rice. The lower premiums should bring Thai rice prices down. Several reductions were made last year (see Foreign Crops and Markets, September 21, 1959).

The premiums paid by exporters go to the government. Changed made in premiums are designed to hold government revenue from export sales at a maximum but, at the same time, keep Thai rice competitive in international trade.

RICE: Thailand's export premiums, effective December 30, 1959, with comparisons

Type	: : December : : 1958 : :	: : Since : : August : : 1959 : :	: : December 30, : 1959 : :
	: : Dollars : : per : : 100 lbs. : :	: : Dollars : : per : : 100 lbs. : :	: : Dollars : : per : : 100 lbs. : :
White rice:	:	:	:
Whole white rice, 100% whole and	:	:	:
5% broken	2.02	2.02	1.92
10% broken	2.02	2.02	1.81
15 and 20% broken	2.02	1.81	1.81
25% broken	1.57	1.40	1.40
35% broken	1.57	1.29	1.29
45% broken	1.57	1.29	1.19
Broken, A-1 Super	1.57	1.57	1.55
Other broken	1.27	1.01	0.97
Cargo rice:	:	:	:
100% whole, and 5, 10, 15, and	:	:	:
20% broken	1.62	1.62	1.51
25% broken	1.57	1.40	1.40
35% broken	1.57	1.29	1.29
45% broken	1.57	1.29	1.19
Broken cargo rice	1.23	0.97	.91
Parboiled rice:	:	:	:
Whole, all grades	1.40	1.40	1.29
Broken, all grades	1.12	.86	.82
Glutinous rice:	:	:	:
Whole, all grades	1.29	1.29	1.72
Broken, all grades	0.82	.97	.91
Flour:	:	:	:
Finely ground	.73	.73	.73

Source: Ministry of Economic Affairs.

SOUTH VIETNAM INCREASED RICE EXPORTS IN 1959

South Vietnam's 1959 exports of rice up to December 23 are unofficially reported at 4,837,000 cwt. (100 pounds) of milled and broken rice, almost double the quantity exported in calendar 1958.

Also as of December 23, licenses had been granted for additional exports of around 1,700,000 cwt. of rice. Thus, fairly heavy shipments are expected from South Vietnam in the first part of 1960.

The 1959-60 rice crop probably is as large as, or may exceed, the bumper 1958-59 harvest. Weather was generally favorable.

Rice exports by country of destination are available from January through September 1959. The 3,900,000 cwt. exported went mainly to French territories--principally French West Africa--and to Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon, France, and Madagascar.

PRODUCER PRICE FIXED FOR 1960 IRISH MALTING BARLEY

Under a long-term agreement made early in 1958, Irish growers of malting barley and Arthur Guinness, Son & Co. (Dublin) Ltd. have fixed the 1960-crop producer price which this firm will pay producers. The price range will be 52s. to 57s. 3d. per barrel (\$1.56 to \$1.71 per bushel). This is the basic price range for barley with 20 percent moisture content.

The basic price fixed for the 1959 crop was 54s. 6d. per barrel (\$1.63 per bushel), and the 1958 crop price was 57s. 6d. per barrel (\$1.72 per bushel). In the marketing of these two crops, no bonus was paid for barley with less than 20 percent moisture content, but in 1960 a pro rata bonus is to be added to the price of such barley.

The basic price for each year is calculated on the basis of the prevailing U. K. price, plus certain additions to be agreed on later in the year. Since Guinness uses most of Ireland's malting barley, the prices paid growers by other Irish brewers generally follow those negotiated by Guinness. For 1960, Guinness proposes to contract for 745,000 barrels (3,477,000 bushels)--about the same as in 1958 but 70,000 barrels (327,000 bushels) less than in 1959.

BRAZIL'S COCOA EXPORTS RISE

Brazil's cocoa exports in the marketing year ending September 1959 rose almost 25 percent from 1957-58 (from 145,000 metric tons to 181,000). Exports exceeded production, thereby decreasing stocks. Emphasis continues to be placed on exporting cocoa products rather than beans. Bean exports declined 10 percent to 106,300 metric tons, while cocoa cake shipments rose from 1,300 metric tons to 39,000 tons.

BELGIUM EASES HOPS IMPORT CONTROLS

Within a limitation of 70 percent of the quota of 24,000 centners (2,645,520 pounds) for the year ending September 30, 1960, Belgium's hops imports have since January 1 been completely unrestricted.

In the fall of 1959, the Belgian Government considered levying a license tax on hops imports but decided against it. In lieu of the tax, the government limited the October 1-December 31 imports to 30 percent of the quota.

EL SALVADOR PAYS WORLD PRICES FOR RETENTION COFFEES

El Salvador's coffee retentions under the International Coffee Agreement for the 1959-60 season are being bought at world market prices. This is a change from the previous two seasons (Mexico City Agreement for 1957-58, and Latin American Agreement for 1958-59) when the Salvadoran Coffee Company bought retention coffee from local producers at prices well under the world market. The Coffee Company was later able to sell 1957-58 and 1958-59 retentions at a profit, and recently turned over \$400,000 to the government from these profits.

INDIAN COIR EXPORTS LESS IN 1958 AND 1959

Exports of coir fiber yarn and products from India in 1958 totaled 165.8 million pounds valued at \$17.2 million, compared with 168.6 million pounds valued at \$18.3 million in 1957. Only 73.7 million pounds were exported in January-June 1959. The value was \$8.0 million. India is the leading supplier of the world's coir yarn and products although it ranks fourth among coconut-producing countries.

Indian exports of coir are mostly as yarn. The 1958 total of 165.8 million pounds was composed of 117.6 million pounds of yarn, 32.8 million pounds of mats and mattings, 7.7 million of carpets and rugs, 5.6 million of cordage and rope, and 2.1 million of fiber. Data for the first 6 months of 1959 indicate decreases from 1958 in all classes except cordage and rope.

Annual coir fiber production in India is estimated at about 291.2 million pounds, yielding about 268.8 million pounds of yarn. Domestic consumption is about 116.5 million pounds of yarn for various purposes and 2.2 million pounds of manufactured products other than cordage.

Coir yarn, the principal export product, was exported to 56 countries in 1958, with West Germany taking 20 percent. The Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Italy took 53 percent. The United Kingdom is the principal buyer of the carpets, rugs, mats, and matting, Italy of fiber, and Singapore of cordage and ropes.

Ceylon is India's only important competitor in coir trade. Ceylon exported 169.7 million pounds of fiber and small quantities of yarn and other products in 1958. Coir is facing increasing competition from more favorably priced and better-quality sisal in the European market. Indian coir probably could be improved in quality and standardization if more modern methods were used.

CUBA SETS 1960 SUGAR OUTPUT AT $6\frac{1}{4}$ MILLION TONS

The Cuban Government has set 1960 sugar production at 5.5 million Spanish long tons (about 6.25 million short tons). This is about 5 percent less than the quantity set and achieved in 1959.

The portion of the new crop which Cuba has allocated to the U. S. market is more than enough to fill Cuba's share (3,119,655 short tons) in present U. S. requirements for 1960. This will leave about one-half of the 1960 target production available for other markets and local consumption. Cuba has a carryover of over 1.5 million short tons from 1959 production. Hence, there seems little doubt that Cuba can supply its share of U. S. 1960 requirements.

Cuban sugar sold in the relatively stable U. S. market now brings about \$40 per short ton more than on the world market, where supplies are large.

AUSTRALIAN PASTURES STILL SUFFER FROM DROUGHT

Australian cattle areas are still suffering from drought.

Many sections in the Northern Territory and Southwest Queensland have had only scattered rains for 3 years and there is almost no pasturage. Heavy rains fell in some of the affected areas in mid-January, and it was hoped this indicated a break in the drought. However, extensive rains will be needed to keep conditions from becoming more serious, and to prevent cattle numbers from declining further.

New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia have had good rains in recent weeks, but pastures have not yet recovered.

Dryness in Western Australia is still causing concern. Rains have fallen in the North and East Kimberly cattle country, but there is near-drought in other areas. Stock generally is in poor condition, with losses increasing. As in the other States, the amount of rain during the next few months will determine the number of cattle that will be of marketable quality during 1960.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS UP SHARPLY THIS SEASON

U. S. exports of cotton (all types) during the first 5 months (August-December) of the 1959-60 season totaled 2,100,000 running bales--up 73 per cent from the 1,214,000 bales shipped during the corresponding period last season.

Exports of 728,000 bales during December 1959 were 12 percent above November shipments of 652,000, and nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the 298,000 bales exported in December 1958. Prospects now appear bright for total exports this season (August-July) of at least 6,000,000 bales.

Comparable figures in 500-pound gross weight bales and destinations of the August-December 1959 exports will be published in Foreign Crops and Markets next week.

INDIAN COTTON PRICE CEILINGS RAISED

On January 15, 1960, India announced increases of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound, depending on quality, in ceiling prices of domestic cotton stapling 1-1/32 inches and longer.

The announcement stated that the higher ceilings are designed to boost production of longer staple cotton and to bring Indian cotton prices more in line with those of comparable foreign growths.

Rising cotton consumption, along with smaller production and stocks, has brought about a tight supply situation in India this season. As a result, prices have pressed official ceilings for several weeks and in some cases popular varieties of Indian cotton have been sold outside official marketing channels at prices above the ceiling.

U. S. COTTON LINTERS IMPORTS UNCHANGED IN DECEMBER

U. S. imports of cotton linters, mostly felting qualities, were 15,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in December. This was equal to imports in November, but 6 per cent below December 1958 imports of 16,000 bales.

Linters imports during the first 5 months (August-December) of the 1959-60 season amounted to 72,000 bales--down slightly from 74,000 in the corresponding months a year earlier.

Principal sources during August-December 1959, with comparable 1958 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 54,000 bales (60,000); U.S.S.R. 10,000 (4,000); Guatemala 3,000 (296); El Salvador 2,000 (5,000); Belgium 1,000 (163); Nicaragua 1,000 (4,000); and Peru 1,000 (287).

BRAZILIAN COTTON PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS INCREASE

Brazilian cotton production in 1959-60, at an estimated 1,650,000 bales (500 pounds gross), is up 15 per cent from the 1,440,000 bales grown last season and is the largest Brazilian crop since 1955-56. The larger crop is attributed to an increase in acreage, coupled with good crop conditions in all producing areas.

Area planted to cotton is estimated at 4,600,000 acres, compared with 4,000,000 acres in 1958-59. This 15-percent increase, most of which was in South Brazil, was the result of favorable weather at planting time, high minimum prices to producers, and government and private encouragement to growers in an effort to expand production.

With its increased supplies this season, Brazil's cotton exports could be larger than average production of 537,000 bales per year in the past 5 seasons. Exports during the first 3 months (August-October) of this season were 139,000 bales--nearly 3 times the 47,000 bales exported in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Quantities exported to principal destinations during August-October 1959, with comparable 1958 figures in parentheses, were: Japan 47,000 bales (12,000); West Germany 35,000 (14,000); Belgium 12,000 (3,000); the United Kingdom 11,000 (5,000); France 10,000 (1,000) the Netherlands 8,000 (2,000); Hong Kong 6,000 (6,000); and Italy 5,000 (1,000).

Exports have dropped off since October as supplies from last year's South Brazilian crop and the 1959-60 North Brazilian crop were reduced. However, exports are expected to pick up again this spring when cotton from South Brazil's current crop begins reaching the market in volume.

Cotton consumption during 1959-60 may be up slightly from the 1,050,000 bales used in each of the 2 preceding seasons, because of increased consumer purchasing power and stronger demand for cotton goods. Beginning cotton stocks on August 1, 1959, were estimated at 740,000 bales--up 23 percent from 600,000 bales a year earlier.

U. S. COTTON IMPORTS UP SLIGHTLY THIS SEASON

U. S. imports of cotton for consumption during the first 5 months (August-December) of the 1959-60 season, based on reports of the Bureau of the Census, were 125,000 bales (500 pounds gross)--up slightly from imports of 122,000 bales in the corresponding period a year earlier. Principal sources of imports during August-December 1959, with comparable 1958 figures in parentheses, were: Egypt 67,000 bales (58,000); Mexico 38,000 (33,000); Peru 15,000 (25,000); India 2,000 (1,000); Sudan 1,000 (1,000); Brazil 1,000 (1,000); and Pakistan 1,000 (2,000).

Imports during December amounted to 1,541 bales, compared with 216 bales in November, and 809 in December 1958.

CUBAN GOVERNMENT BECOMES SOLE SOYBEAN MEAL IMPORTER

A Cuban Government agency, Empresa Transformadora de Productos Agropecuarios, Havana, was made the sole importer of soybean meal on January 15, 1960, according to a press report. This step reportedly was taken to encourage the manufacture of balanced feeds at the lowest cost.

Apparently anticipating the action, Empresa Transformadora on January 13 contracted through Cuban representatives of U.S. exporting firms for 3,000 tons of soybean meal (2,000 tons solvent and 1,000 tons expeller).

SUEZ CANAL SOYBEAN SHIPMENTS LARGE IN OCTOBER 1959

Oilseed shipments northward through the Suez Canal in October 1959 were up sharply from October 1958 and were somewhat above those in September this year.

Increased shipments of soybeans from Communist China accounted for most of the increased volume. Although the effects of adverse weather on oilseed crops during the summer of 1959 must have been apparent by October, soybean exports were maintained at a high level. Mainland China's total oilseed production in 1959 is estimated to have been 5 percent below the previous year.

Copra shipments in October were near the level of the previous year, but peanuts were down sharply. Soybean shipments, although large, were below the average monthly rate of 75,500 tons in the 1958-59 marketing year. However, shipments normally are slack during September-December and much heavier during January-April.

OILSEEDS: Suez Canal, northbound shipments, October 1958 and 1959, October-September 1957-58 and 1958-59

Oilseed	October		October-September	
	1958	1959	1957-58	1958-59
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Short tons	short tons	short tons	short tons
Soybeans 1/.....	35.3	69.4	519.2	906.1
Copra.....	56.2	55.1	784.8	496.0
Peanuts.....	12.1	7.7	136.7	156.5
Cottonseed.....	4.4	6.6	117.9	188.3
Flaxseed 2/.....	3.3	1.1	37.5	30.9
Others.....	16.5	23.1	205.0	241.4
Total.....	127.8	163.0	1,801.1	2,019.2

1/ To convert to bushels use 33.3 bushels per ton. 2/ To convert to bushels use 35.7 bushels per ton.

Suez Canal Authority, Monthly Bulletin (Cairo, Egypt).

AUSTRALIA EXPECTS AVERAGE DRIED VINE-FRUIT PRODUCTION

Average production for all Australian vine fruits is forecast for 1960 if weather remains favorable. A preliminary estimate by the Australian Dried Fruit Association places total dried vine-fruit production at 85,000 to 90,000 short tons.

Development of vine-fruits production is reported to be about two weeks ahead of the 1959 crop. Currants have begun to color in some areas and harvesting is expected to begin around the first of February. Harvesting of the sultana crop, with sugar content reported higher than last year, is expected to commence around mid-February.

Australian sultana stocks were estimated at about 13,000 short tons at the end of December. To reduce these stocks, minimum prices for sultanas were lowered January 1, 1960, to the following levels: 4 Crown--13.2 cents per pound; 5 Crown--13.8 cents; and 6 Crown--14.5 cents. During the first two weeks of January, 2,500 tons were reported sold and demand was increasing. On January 20, prices were raised one-fourth cent per pound by the Australian Dried Fruit Board; buying activity continued and another 2,500 tons were moved.

Sultana stocks remaining in the United Kingdom are reported to be about 8,000 tons. Most of the fruit is said to be 5-Crown Grade, with only small quantities of 4-Crown and 6-Crown available. In late January, Australian sultanas were reported to be selling in the United Kingdom at 14.4 to 15.0 cents per pound for 5-Crown Grade, and 15.1 to 15.9 cents for 6-Crown Grade ex-wharf.

Australian sales of currants on the U. K. market have been good. Of the estimated 4,000 tons shipped, only about 300 tons remained unsold in mid-January.

U.S. EXPORTS OF FISH OILS REACH NEW PEAK

U. S. exports of fish oils (including liver oils) reached a record 72,240 short tons in 1959, slightly exceeding the previous high, in 1955. The upsurge in exports follows 2 years of sharply declining shipments, notably to Western Europe--the major market for U.S. fish oils (see table on page 26).

Exports to Western Europe in 1959 were up 74 percent from 1958 and accounted for virtually all of the total volume going out. Shipments to Sweden in 1959 were over 6 times larger than in the previous year, reflecting a reduction in export availabilities of Norwegian marine oils. Exports to the Netherlands last year were more than double those of 1958; however they were almost 50 percent below the record volume of 1955. Shipments to Canada dropped sharply in 1959 following a recovery of Canadian marine oil production late in 1958 and continued high output throughout last year.

FISH OIL (INCLUDING LIVER): U.S. exports by country of destination,
averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1955-59

Country of destination	Average		1955	1956	1957	1958 1/	1959 1/
	1935-39	1950-54					
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North America:							
Canada.....	458:	2,707:	11,308:	1,621:	1,228:	6,485:	1,904
Cuba.....	155:	113:	84:	112:	129:	99:	57
Mexico.....	45:	109:	96:	63:	56:	123:	176
Other.....	71:	26:	3:	37:	9:	12:	146
Total.....	729:	2,955:	11,491:	1,833:	1,422:	6,719:	2,283
South America.....	96:	84:	56:	62:	42:	26:	6
Europe:							
Belgium-Luxembourg:	8:	215:	1,098:	759:	661:	2,344:	2,167
Denmark.....	---	---	---	866:	---	---	577
France.....	19:	273:	9:	---	5:	5:	40
Germany, West.....2/	126:	12,913:	10,503:	32,491:	26,296:	17,118:	16,588
Italy.....	15:	71:	106:	60:	178:	119:	10
Netherlands.....	15:	18,260:	39,642:	25,023:	14,978:	10,920:	22,058
Norway.....	10:	1,444:	6,758:	6,251:	5,272:	5,794:	8,054
Sweden.....	7:	---	---	2,646:	7,716:	3,370:	20,355
Switzerland.....	15:	4,994:	646:	367:	794:	558:	---
United Kingdom.....	77:	335:	881:	920:	854:	---	5
Other.....	8:	25:	23:	---	---	---	---
Total.....	300:	38,530:	59,666:	69,383:	56,754:	40,228:	69,854
Asia:							
Philippine Republic:	66:	585:	---	10:	7:	---	---
Other.....	24:	28:	55:	5:	6:	31:	30
Total.....	90:	613:	55:	15:	13:	31:	30
Africa.....	19:	25:	68:	24:	305:	17:	---
Oceania.....	---	---	---	---	4:	---	---
Grand total...	1,234:	42,207:	71,336:	71,317:	58,540:	47,021:	372,240
1/ Preliminary. 2/ Total Germany. 3/ Includes 67 tons whose destination in not indicated.							

Compiled from official records of the Department of Commerce.

MADAGASCAR ESTABLISHES NEW IMPORT SYSTEM

In December 1959, the Malgache Republic (Madagascar) put an entirely new import quota system into effect, and the government licensing authority began to receive applications for import licenses on January 11, 1960.

The quotas apply to all countries outside the franc zone, including the United States, but excluding Communist China. New quotas are expected to be announced periodically--probably every 6 months.

Unmanufactured tobacco is the only agricultural item with a specific import quota (\$20,881). Imports of wheat and wheat flour, fats, edible oils, sugar and beverages are specifically prohibited from outside the franc zone. Other commodities are indirectly excluded if the franc zone can supply them. Prior to the announcement of the present system Malgache exporters were able to freely use 12 percent of their earned dollars for imports of dollar goods.

WEST INDIES FEDERATION EXTENDS OILS AND FATS AGREEMENT

A 3-year extension of the Oils and Fats Agreement of the West Indies Federation was recommended on January 20 at the conclusion of a Regional Oils and Fats Conference held in Trinidad. Higher prices for copra and coconut oil also were recommended. All territories of the Federation are expected to accept the recommendations.

The suggested f.o.b. price for copra for the year beginning February 1, 1960, was \$179.10 per short ton (up \$10.50 from the previous price), and for coconut oil 15.5 cents per pound (up about 1 cent). The higher prices are still somewhat below world prices.

The original Oils and Fats Agreement in the Federation dates back to the early 1940's. The agreement is designed to control the prices of oils and fats in the area, and to provide stability for the industry by setting guaranteed prices and controlling exports and imports. British Guiana and all the Federation territories except Antigua are signatories.

TRIAL SHIPMENTS OF YUGOSLAV DRIED PRUNES REACH U. S.

According to Yugoslav sources, two 11-ton trial shipments of small dried prunes have arrived in New York and were acceptable under the Food and Drug Act. A follow-up shipment of 1,320 tons, to be made into juice, is expected (see Foreign Crops and Markets, January 18).

Official Business

(PMGC)

JAMAICA CHANGES
IMPORT POLICY

In the absence of a Customs Union, the governments of the islands forming the federation of The West Indies continue to establish their own import policy. In line with this, the Jamaican Government issued a public notice to importers on January 2, 1960, to the effect that an import license will no longer be required for manufactured or unmanufactured tobacco; but fresh vegetables, fresh milk and cream (including chilled or frozen) have been put under control and require a specific import license.

U. S. exports of cigarettes to Jamaica in 1958 were valued at \$22,000, which was less than one-fifth of Jamaica's total cigarette imports. The value of U. S. shipments of fresh vegetables to Jamaica in 1958 was \$57,466.